

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 FEA-01 /078 W

----- 040016

R 020908Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8692

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY QA SA TC KU

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RAZAK TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST

REF: A. KL A-119, 9/12/74

B. KL A-92, 7/18/74

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER RAZAK WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AND PERSIAN GULF STATES IN LATE JANUARY AS PART OF MALAYSIAN MOVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE DEC. 31, PM RAZAK ANNOUNCED HE WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, KUWAIT AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES IN LATE JANUARY "TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER OUR RELATIONS WITH THESE

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COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS."

ALSO, RAZAK'S VERY BRIEF (AND OTHERWISE UNNOTEWORTHY) DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ISSUES IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE SINGLED OUT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN LATE JUNE 1974 AS "HELPING TO BRING MALAYSIA CLOSER IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY MIDDLE EASTERN STATES."

3. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, RAZAK WILL DEPART O/A JAN. 15 AND SPEND ABOUT TWO WEEKS OR SO IN MIDDLE EAST. IT NOT KNOWN WHETHER RAZAK PLANS VISIT OTHER ME CAPITALS INFORMALLY OR FOR REST PURPOSES, BUT WE HAVE HEARD THAT TEHRAN IS ON ITINERARY ALSO. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PARLIAMENT DEC. 20 APPROVED GOM PARTICIPATION IN ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK; ENABLING LEGISLATION, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SPECIFY LEVEL OF GOM CONTRIBUTION TO BANK. GOM HAS INCREASED INTEREST IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH ME NATIONS AS ILLUSTRATED BY NOV-DEC TRADE MISSION TO BAHRAIN, OMAN, DUBAI, QATAR, KUWAIT, LEBANON AND IRAN WHICH REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN APPROX US\$7 MILLION SALES OF FOOD, ELECTRONICS GEAR, TIMBER PRODUCTS, FOOTWARE, PEWTER AND HANDICRAFTS. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, DELEGATION (WHICH INCLUDED GOVT AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES) FELT THERE IS GREAT LONG-TERM POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH IN MALAYSIAN TRADE WITH MIDDLE EAST, BUT RECOGNIZED THAT LACK OF REGULARLY-SCHEDULED SHIPPING TO ME AND PERSIAN GULF PORTS IS RESTRAINING FACTOR.

4. COMMENT: TOGETHER WITH PROMOTION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) AND IDENTIFICATION WITH NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, EFFORT TO HEIGHTEN RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC NATIONS IS PRINCIPAL STRAIN IN CURRENT GOM FOREIGN POLICY. GOM HAS IN RECENT MONTHS ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERSIAN GULF STATES (REF A) AND SEVERAL ME NATIONS INCLUDING LIBYA AND IRAQ HAVE OPENED EMBASSIES HERE. HOLDING OF FIFTH ISLAMIC FONMINS' CONF IN KL (REF B), AS PM RAZAK NOTED IN HIS NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS, ENHANCED MALAYSIA'S IDENTIFICATION WITH ISLAMIC NATIONS AND ME NATIONS IN PARTICULAR. RAZAK'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND PERSIAN GULF, THEN, REPRESENTS CONTINUING EFFORT TO CULTIVATE THESE RELATIONS, THOUGH WE NOTE RAZAK'S TOUR IS LIMITED TO MORE CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES.

UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA00008
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750002-0299
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750183/aaaacune.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KL A-119, 75 9/12/74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER RAZAK TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, MY, QA, SA, TC, KU, (RAZAK BIN HUSSIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006